THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Besides the original allotment of Rs. 15.00 crores during 2001-02, additional funds of Rs. 42.68 crores have also been provided to complete the project as per the scheduled target of March, 2003.

Ticketless train passengers

†2168. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of ticketless train passengers has been increasing continuously;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to take any concrete steps to check the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The exact extent of ticketless travel is not quantifiable. However, increased ticket checking efforts are done to reduce the number of ticketless passengers.

Besides emphasising on the regular ticket checking activities, the Zonal Railways conduct checks during specific periods at nominated places which are prone to irregular travel so as to have a greater impact for curbing the problem. The Railway Magistrates and Police are also associated from time to time. The officers of Railways are involved both in actual checking as well as monitoring of ticket checking activities.

Missing containers of CONCOR

2169. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 containers of the Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) are missing;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to recover the same; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what is the total loss suffered by the company because of the missing container?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes Sir. 80 containers could not be enumerated in the container census last year.

(b) Out of 80 containers, 19 containers have already been identified and efforts are on to enumerate the remaining containers.

(c) Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), conducts a census of containers where enumeration is done on the basis of a unique 7 digit number allotted to each container. Often, due to wear and tear, these numbers get erased making it difficult to enumerate these containers although they may be in circulation. In last year's census, 80 containers could not be enumerated. 19 containers have already been identified and CONCOR is in the process of tracing the remaining containers and restoring the correct number to each of them. With computerisation of container details, the ease of enumeration would increase. Loss suffered through lack of enumeration is a notional one as containers are in circulation and are being utilised also.

New train between Bhopal and Mumbai

†2170. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people from Bhopal have requested the Ministry of Railways to start a new train between Bhopal and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have seriously considered the said request;

(d) if so, by when, Government proposed to start the said train; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Representations including from Shri P.K. Maheshwari, MP, Ms. Uma Bharti, Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports have been received for introduction of a train between Bhopal and Mumbai.

Introduction of Habibganj-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express (weekly) (serving Bhopal-Mumbai) has been included in the Railway Budget 2002-2003.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.